



## A Perspective on Chemistry and Society

A Column on the Occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CHIMIA

The President of the Swiss Chemical Society

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CHIMIA, the Essential Communication Link of the Swiss Chemical Society

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**Alain De Mesmaeker** was born in Brussels, Belgium (1955). He earned his licence and PhD in Chemistry (1983), Catholic University of Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium (Synthesis/thermal isomerisation of capto-dative cyclopropanes, Prof. H. G. Viehe). He undertook post-doctoral research (1983–1985), at the Weizmann Institute of Sciences, Israel (Total synthesis of carba-clavulanic acid, Prof. M. D.

Bachi). He then became Group Leader in the Central Research Laboratories, Ciba-Geigy, Basel, Switzerland (1985–1996: Natural Products synthesis, Radical Chemistry, Carbohydrates, Nucleic Acids, Combinatorial Chemistry), followed by Head of Research Chemistry, Novartis Crop Protection (1997–2000), Global Head of Research Chemistry, Syngenta (2000–2008), Principal Chemistry Expert, Principal Syngenta Fellow (2008–2020). He and his team were awarded the Sandmeyer Award (2018) and he has served as President of the Swiss Chemical Society from 2016 to 2021.

This year we have the pleasure to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CHIMIA and I take the opportunity to underline the essential roles that this journal plays and will continue to play in the future for the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS).

CHIMIA is the official journal of the SCS and, consequently, is the main communication channel with our members, partners and with the international scientific community. The second journal of the SCS is *Helvetica Chimica Acta*, edited in collaboration with Wiley-VHCA, which is exclusively focusing on original research articles.

CHIMIA publishes very high-quality scientific articles mainly in thematic issues covering a broad range of very relevant topics, which are actively worked on internationally and in the academic and industrial Swiss organizations. I would like to thank here the excellent work achieved by the CHIMIA editorial board together with the editors-in-chief who have served during many years to the success of the journal. There is no doubt that CHIMIA belongs to the leading journals of its kind. We have retained the full control of CHIMIA in order not only to secure its content according to the SCS needs but also to retain and develop our expertise in the field of scientific publishing. This has some financial consequences that we are endorsing for the benefit of our members and partners.

CHIMIA has major contributions in addition to the scientific articles of the thematic issues. We welcome also notes and scientific articles of high-quality not covered by the thematic issues and we would like to encourage our members to take this opportunity to disclose their scientific results to the Swiss community and beyond.

As important are all the other topics covered by CHIMIA, such as the Swiss Science Concentrates, the Highlights of the various Divisions and Sections, the Conference Reports, the Community News including the Events in Switzerland. We have the possibility to disclose and promote our numerous activities from our core Divisions, as well as new initiatives and Sections which are covering an increasing part of Chemistry performed in Switzerland. For example, we have launched new Divisions and Sections such as Chemical Education, Chemistry and the Environment, Green and Sustainable Chemistry, Chemistry in Flow, and very importantly the Women in Chemistry Network. CHIMIA welcomes all contributions from our core Divisions/Sections as well as from the emerging ones. Two additional Sections will be launched this year on Materials Chemistry and on Chemical Ecology, which will be presented soon in CHIMIA. CHIMIA is also instrumental in calling for nominations and for reporting on the Laureates of our spectacular SCS Awards program.

Our strategic Institutional Members have also the possibility to write reports on their company in CHIMIA. These reports are not only very valuable for the companies, which can underline their new strategy and development but also to the entire chemistry community, including students who think of their future career and potential attractive employers.

For all these reasons, CHIMIA is a unique and essential communication tool for the SCS, which is highly appreciated by our members and partners. According to numerous feedbacks we received, we are convinced that the paper version of CHIMIA complements perfectly the electronic one.

A very important decision has been taken in 2020 to move to the Platinum Open Access version of CHIMIA. This has again some financial consequences that we agreed to take over because we are convinced that CHIMIA should be freely accessible to the entire scientific community. In addition, we expect to enjoy an even broader visibility of the SCS journal.

In the future, we are convinced that CHIMIA will remain an essential communication tool for the SCS and for the chemistry community in Switzerland and internationally. Each of us will have even more possibilities to collect information through existing and new technologies. However, the selection of the most relevant information will remain challenging. CHIMIA should provide to the Chemistry community the most relevant information in a high-quality form. The content of CHIMIA could be even further improved and broadened due to your active contribution and participation. There is no doubt that Chemistry will remain a core scientific discipline to help the world for a better future. Unfortunately, the immensely positive roles that Chemistry is and will play are not obvious for a large part of the population. CHIMIA has to play an increasingly active role to provide the scientific information needed to base opinion and decisions. This will only be feasible with your active support. I am confident that the long tradition and experience gained over the past 75 years by the CHIMIA and the SCS Teams will contribute to our success in the difficult future that we will have to face.

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